Invitation to BICC Conference Migration and Displacement

7 January 2009

Dear Madam or Sir,

From 13-14 February 2009, the Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC) will organize its second international conference in the field of migration and security. Under the heading Migration and Displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Security - Migration Nexus II this conference will especially focus on causes and repercussions of involuntary migration within Africa. This event is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Forced migration as a consequence of violent conflicts, persecution, natural disasters, and the destruction of livelihoods is a great humanitarian as well as development and security policy challenge for affected states and societies. This does particularly apply to Sub-Saharan Africa, where the number of forced migrants by far exceeds that of voluntary movements.

The first BICC conference on security and migration dealt with South-North migration. This second conference will address the topic of migration and displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa and discuss in particular the following aspects: causes of forced migration, humanitarian, social and legal consequences for those concerned, the role of forced migrants in (post-)conflict processes and situations of need as well as the effects of forced migration on neighboring countries. Furthermore, courses of action of migration governance on the regional level as well as experiences and perspectives of civil society groups and international organizations are to be discussed.

We would like to cordially invite you to participate in this international conference and would be very pleased if you decided to take part in this event.

Please refer to the enclosed form to confirm your participation in the conference and send it back to Susanne Zacharias no later than 23 January 2009 either by fax (+49-228-24 12 15) or by email (sz@biccc.de).

Enclosed you will find a tentative conference program.

Yours sincerely

Peter J. Croll

Encl.